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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TREATING PAIN			
(57) Abstract			
Compositions and methods for alleviating pain, in particular, neuropathic pain, in a mammalian patient, wherein an effective amount of a physiologically-acceptable salt of a compound of the general formula (I) is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.		 <div style="text-align: right;">(I)</div>	

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COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TREATING PAIN

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to the fields of biology and medicine. In particular, the present invention is directed to compositions and
5 methods for use in treatment for patients with pain, particularly as originating from chronic afferent input and/or injury to nervous tissue.

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10 Following injury to a peripheral nerve, substantial functional alterations occur in both the peripheral and central nervous systems. Sustained, low-level ectopic spontaneous activity originates at the site of neuroma formation in large peripheral axons [Chabal C et al., Pain 38:333-338 (1989)] as well as in dorsal root ganglion cells [Kajander KC et al., Neurosci Lett 138:225-228 (1992)]. While
15 the basis of this spontaneous electrical activity is not known, abnormalities of axonal sodium channel distribution have been described in association with demyelination after peripheral nerve injury [Devor M et al., J Neurosci 13:1976-1992 (1993); Devor M et al., Neurosci Lett 102:149-154 (1989)] that may lead to spontaneous fiber activity [Matzner O et al., Brain Res 597:92-98 (1992)]. In
20 addition, the appearance after nerve injury of an unusual type of "modified rapidly adapting" cutaneous mechanoreceptor has been identified, which although not spontaneously active, shows abnormally prolonged, weak, irregular discharges to light mechanical stimuli [Na HS et al., J Neurophysiol 70:522-528 (1993)]. Prominent increases are also seen in the evoked activity of dorsal horn neurons
25 which project supraspinally [Lombard MC et al., Pain 37:335-345 (1989); Palecek J et al., J Neurophysiol 68:1951-1966 (1992)]. Similar sustained central activity is demonstrable after the application of N-methyl-D-aspartate type glutamate agonists [Dickenson AH et al., Brain Res 424:402-406 (1987)] which leads not only to electrophysiological facilitation of neuronal responses but also to the
30 behavioral manifestation of tactile allodynia [Bach FW et al., Ann Neurol 36:288A (1994)]. Thus, continued afferent pathway activity is linked to behavioral states

wherein modest stimuli may evoke pronounced responses. These changes in electrical activity are associated with peripheral and central changes including alterations in receptor expression [Sato J et al., *Science* 251:1608-1610 (1991); Xie Y-K et al., *Series B, Chemistry, Life Sciences and Earth Sciences* 36:68-74
5 (1993)], second messenger function [Mao J et al., *J Neurophysiol* 70:470-481 (1993); Mao JR et al., *Brain Res* 588:144-149 (1992)], neurotransmitter production [Bennett GJ et al., *Neurochemical and anatomical changes in the dorsal horn of rats with an experimental painful peripheral neuropathy, Processing of Sensory Information in the Superficial Dorsal Horn of Spinal Cord*, Edited by Cervero F,
10 Bennett GJ, Headley P, New York, Plenum pp 463-471 (1989)], likely neuronal dropout [Sugimoto T et al., *Pain* 42:205-213 (1990)], and possibly altered balance of inhibitory/excitatory neurotransmitters [Yaksh T, *Pain* 37:111-123 (1989)]. The sum total of these mechanisms may provide a scenario whereby nerve injury leads to an anomalous pain state.

15 A number of carefully executed clinical studies have shown that systemically administered local anesthetics may have analgesic properties that are specific to pain states resulting from damage to nerve tissue [Chabal C et al., *Anesthesiology* 76:513-517 (1992); Chabal et al. (1989), *supra*; Deigård A et al., *Lancet* 1:9-11 (1988); Kastrup J et al., *Br Med J* 292:173 (1986); Kastrup J et al.,
20 *Pain* 28:69-75 (1987); Marchettini P et al., *Pain* 48:377-382 (1992); Rowbotham MC et al., *Neurology* 41:1024-1028 (1991)]. Analgesia in such neuropathic pain states is attained in the absence of motor or sensory conduction blockade, and at doses without toxic effects. Since neuropathic pain is otherwise difficult to treat and typically refractory to conventional analgesic agents, these studies have
25 generated considerable interest.

Patients with painful diabetic neuropathy have been shown to benefit with reduced pain scores for several days from the intravenous administration of lidocaine, without alteration in thermal thresholds [Bach FW et al., *Pain* 40:29-34
(1990); Kastrup et al. 1986), *supra*]. Patients with pain due to peripheral nerve
30 injury likewise reported decreases in spontaneous pain, albeit of short duration, after intravenous lidocaine [Marchettini et al. (1992), *supra*]. Orally administered

available congeners of lidocaine also may be effective, as demonstrated by the analgesic effects of mexiletine in painful diabetic neuropathy [Dejgard et al. (1988), *supra*] and peripheral nerve injury [Chabal et al. (1992), *supra*], and tocainide in trigeminal neuralgia [Lindström P et al., *Pain* 28:45-50 (1987)].

5 Following peripheral nerve injury, humans may report both thermal hyperalgesia and tactile allodynia (i.e., pain evoked by light touch or brushing of the skin). Importantly, human psychophysical studies have documented that the predominant evoked pain complaint in peripheral nerve injury sufferers is allodynia [Bowsher D, *Sensory change in postherpetic neuralgia, Herpes Zoster and*
10 *Postherpetic Neuralgia*, Edited by Watson CPN, Amsterdam, Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., pp 97-107 (1993); Wahren LK et al., *Pain* 48:237-244 (1992)].

Due to its well known properties of conduction blockade, lidocaine has been assayed in afferent systems primarily using electrophysiological assessments. A number of investigations have examined the effects of lidocaine on evoked or
15 spontaneous neural activity. A systematic examination in patients with painful diabetic neuropathy [Bach et al. (1990), *supra*] has suggested a spinal or supraspinal effect site due to suppression of the centrally organized nociceptive flexion response. In addition, considerable evidence from the preclinical literature supports a spinal cord or supraspinal site of action of intravenously administered
20 lidocaine in facilitated pain states [Dohi S et al., *Anesthesiology* 51:123-126 (1979); Sotgiu ML et al., *NeuroReport* 5:873- (1994); Sotgiu ML et al., *Neuroreport* 2:425-428 (1991); Sotgiu ML et al., *Somatosensory and Motor Research* 9:227-233 (1992); Woolf CJ et al., *Pain* 23:361-374 (1985)]. Lidocaine, with an octanol: water distribution coefficient of 110 at 36°C, pH 7.4 [Strichartz
25 GR et al., *Anesth Analg* 71:158-70 (1990)], distributes promptly to central nervous system structures after systemic administration [Usubiaga JE et al., *Br J Anaesth* 39:943-947 (1967)]. The effects of a systemically delivered dose appear more potent in central than in peripheral nervous structures. Although peripheral terminals clearly respond to lidocaine, they appear to do so only at a relatively
30 high concentration.

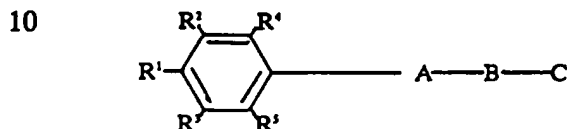
A single study has derived *in vitro* dose-response curves for the suppressant effect of lidocaine on spontaneous activity in acutely injured peripheral terminals. The reported ED₅₀ of 5.7 µg/ml, however, reflects drug in an artificial, protein-free system [Tanelian DL et al., *Anesthesiology* 74:934-936 (1991)]; a substantially
5 higher plasma concentration would in all likelihood be required for a comparable investigation *in vivo*, considering that lidocaine is extensively protein-bound in circulation. In whole animals, the ED₅₀ of intravenous lidocaine for discharge suppression in neuromata has been reported to be 6 mg/kg, whereas that for the dorsal root ganglion is lower, at 1 mg/kg [Devor M et al., *Pain* 48:261-268
10 (1992)], a dose which also yields suppression of polysynaptic (spinal cord) sural nerve evoked after discharges [Woolf et al. (1985), *supra*]. Dose-related suppression of neurons in Rexed lamina V to high threshold mechanical and noxious thermal stimuli is seen in decerebrate cats (plasma concentration = 3-10 µg/ml) [Dohi et al. (1979), *supra*]. IV lidocaine (1-5 mg/kg) suppresses
15 polysynaptic C-fiber evoked flexor responses to mustard oil and noxious heat, without evidence of conduction block at the peripheral terminal [Woolf et al. (1985), *supra*]. IV lidocaine (3-4 mg/kg) suppresses noxious-evoked activity in wide dynamic range neurons in the rat, and, in addition, selectively suppresses the increased wide dynamic range neuronal activity seen ipsilateral to chronic
20 peripheral nerve injury [Sotgiu et al. (1991), *supra*; Sotgiu et al. (1992), *supra*]. To date, no studies have specifically examined the effects of systemically administered lidocaine on supraspinal structures or descending pathways in the context of hyperalgesia or increased evoked responses.

Although much interest has been generated by the clinical use of orally
25 available lidocaine congeners in neuropathic pain states, such as mexiletine (Mexitil®, Boehringer Ingelheim) [Chabal et al. (1992), *supra*] and tocainide (Tonocard®, Merck Sharp & Dohme) [Lindstrom et al. (1987), *supra*], such therapies are far from universally effective and in many cases are poorly tolerated due to side effects, including some which may be life-threatening. Determination
30 of the structure-activity relationship is critical to discovery of the mechanism underlying relief.

It is an object of the present invention to provide compositions and methods which do not suffer from all of the drawbacks of the prior art methods.

Summary of the Invention

5 In accordance with the present invention, there are provided compositions and methods for alleviating pain, and in particular neuropathic pain, in a mammalian patient, wherein an effective amount of a physiologically-acceptable salt of a compound of the general formula I



wherein each of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting
 15 of hydrogen, hydroxyl, acyl, alkoxyl, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl and NR^8R^9 , in which each of R^8 and R^9 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, with the proviso that at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is hydroxyl;

20 each of R^4 and R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen and lower alkyl;

A is $-C(=O)O-$ or $NR^{10}C(=O)-$, in which R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl;

25 B is $-(CR^{11}R^{12})_n-$, in which each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, and n is an integer from 1 to 5; and

C is NR^6R^7 , in which each of R^6 and R^7 is independently selected from the
 30 group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, or R^6 and R^7 together form a heterocycle

or substituted heterocycle selected from the group consisting of piperidyl, N-alkylpiperidyl, piperaziny, N'-alkylpiperaziny, morpholiny and N-alkylmorpholiny, is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

5 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

The invention may be better understood with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 illustrates the lack of correlation of plasma bupivacaine levels with percent of maximal possible drug effect on allodynia suppression (%MPE) illustrated up to plasma levels entering the toxic range (4 rats, 15 samples);

Fig. 2 illustrates the effect of constant-rate infusion of lidocaine metabolites 3-OH L (20 mg/kg total), MEGX (20 mg/kg, total) and the vehicle for 3-OH, DMSO, on paw withdrawal thresholds (allodynia) (N=4 rats per group);

Fig. 3 is data from Fig. 2 with superimposed data for the IV administration of lidocaine, 15 mg/kg (N=6 rats) showing effects on rat paw thresholds (allodynia);

Fig. 4 depicts the effect of the intrathecal administration of limiting doses of MEGX (500 μ g, limited by motor effect), 3-OH L (intrathecal injection, 58 μ g, limited by solubility) and their respective vehicles on allodynia, measured as paw withdrawal thresholds (N = 6 rats per group);

Fig. 5 shows the persistence of the allodynia suppressing effect of IT 3-OH L, 58 μ g, compared to vehicle over a 5 day observation period (N= 6 rats per group);

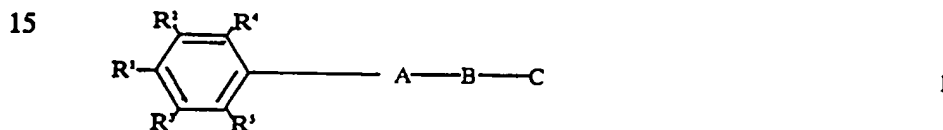
Fig. 6 shows the results in SD rats (N=12) and DA rats (N=12) given either a single dose of lidocaine 60 mg/kg, i.p. (N=6, each strain) or saline (N=6, each strain); and

Fig. 7 shows the results in SD rats (N=6) and DA rats (N=5) given i.p. 3-OHL 15 mg/kg or DMSO vehicle alone.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Pursuant to the present invention, compositions and methods for alleviating neuropathic pain in a mammalian patient are provided. These compositions and methods provide selective pain relief without loss of other sensory or motor modalities for a large class of patients, including those with pain related to cancer/treatments of cancer, AIDS, nerve injuries stemming from trauma, underlying diseases such as diabetes, infections such as herpes zoster, and degenerative disorders such as herniated discs. Moreover, the inventive compositions do not suffer from the drawbacks of previous treatment modalities, such as limited effectiveness and risk of serious side effects including the development of drug dependencies.

In the compositions and methods of the present invention, a physiologically acceptable salt of a compound of the general formula I



wherein each of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, acyl, alkoxyl, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl and NR^8R^9 , in which each of R^8 and R^9 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, with the proviso that at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is hydroxyl;

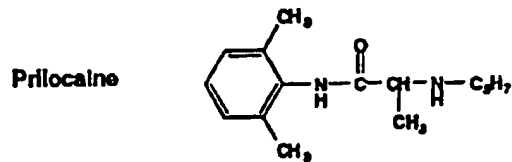
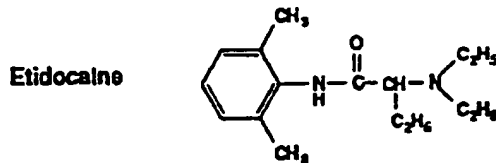
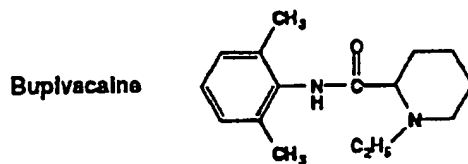
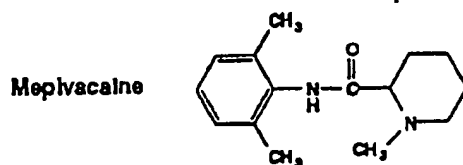
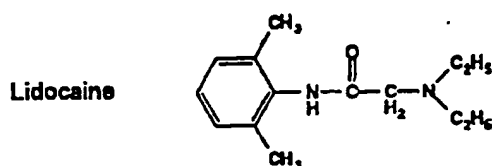
25 each of R^4 and R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen and lower alkyl;

A is $-C(=O)O-$ or $NR^{10}C(=O)-$, in which R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl;

30 B is $-(CR^{11}R^{12})_n-$, in which each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, alkyl, aryl,

acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, and n is an integer from 1 to 5; and

C is NR^6R^7 , in which each of R^6 and R^7 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, or R^6 and R^7 together form a heterocycle or substituted heterocycle selected from the group consisting of piperidyl, N-alkylpiperidyl, piperazinyl, N'-alkylpiperazinyl, morpholinyl and N-alkylmorpholinyl is employed. Preferred classes of compounds of general formula I include the 3-OH and 4-OH derivatives of the known compounds lidocaine, mepivacaine, bupivacaine, etidocaine and prilocaine:



Pursuant to one particularly preferred embodiment, the active agent is a physiologically acceptable salt of 3-hydroxy-lidocaine [i.e., the compound of general formula I in which R¹ is H, R² is OH, R³ is H, R⁴ and R⁵ are CH₃, A is -NHC(=O)-, B is -CH₂- and C is N(CH₂CH₃)₂]. Of the compounds of general
5 formula I, apparently only the free base form of 3-OH lidocaine has been reported in the literature.

By "physiologically-acceptable salt" for purposes of the present invention is contemplated that the materials are capable of administration to or upon a mammal, including a human patient, without the production of undesirable
10 physiological effects, including but not limited to neurotoxicity, nausea, dizziness, gastric upset and the like. Both unconjugated forms and free base forms solubilized by conjugation (for example, glucuronidated) are suitable for use in accordance with the present invention.

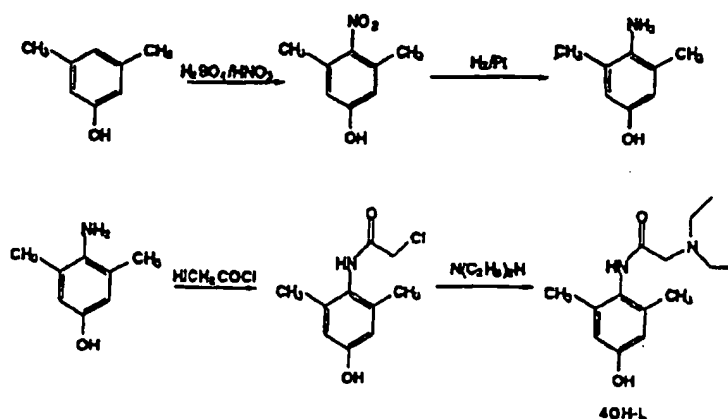
For purposes of the present invention, the terms "alkyl", "alkoxy" and
15 "hydroxyalkyl" refer to groups comprising 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 5 carbon atoms. The term "acyl" refers to groups comprising 2 to about 20 carbon atoms, preferably 2 to 5 carbon atoms. The term "aryl" refers to aromatic ring systems comprising one to about three rings (e.g., phenyl, naphthyl, anthracyl, etc.).

20 As would be readily appreciated by those working in the field, the compounds of general formula I may be routinely synthesized using a variety of different approaches. For example, appropriate modifications of the heretofore-known methods for preparation of, e.g., the corresponding parent compounds that lack a 3-OH or 4-OH group may be employed. The synthesis of lead compound
25 3-hydroxy-lidocaine from lidocaine base has been reported [Keenaghan JB & Boyes RN, J. Pharmacol. Exper. Therapeut. 180:454-463 (1972)]; appropriate modification of this method (e.g., selection of corresponding starting materials to produce the desired product) is exemplary of available approaches to synthesis of a compound of general formula I with a 3-OH group.

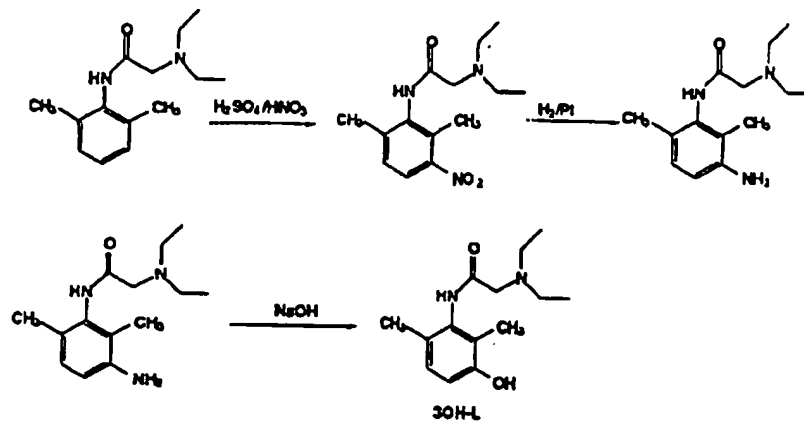
30 Scheme 1 illustrates one synthetic approach for an exemplary 4-OH compound; similarly, Scheme 2 illustrates a synthetic approach for an exemplary

3-OH compound. For both types of compounds, of course, various alternatives are available and would be immediately apparent to those working in the field.

Scheme 1



Scheme 2



The free base forms of the compounds of general formula I are not water-soluble; for example, it was necessary to dissolve the free base of 3-hydroxylidocaine in a vehicle containing an empirically determined mixture of ethanol, dimethyl sulfoxide, propylene glycol and saline for application to the rat spinal cord. The physiologically-acceptable salt forms of the compounds of general formula I employed in accordance with the present invention, in contrast, are generally water-soluble to at least some degree, and the solubility properties thereof can be in many cases improved by conjugation. Unlike the free base forms of the compounds of general formula I, the salt forms may be administered by a variety of known routes [e.g., oral intravenous, intrathecal, local (e.g., intraneuromal), epidural, transdermal, etc.] as would be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art. As is conventional practice in the art, the active agent of general formula I is typically administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient (e.g., saline).

The preparation of a pharmacological composition which contains active ingredients dissolved or dispersed therein is well understood in the art. Typically, such compositions are prepared for purposes of injection as liquid solutions or suspensions; however, solid forms suitable for solution or suspension in liquid prior to use may also be prepared.

Physiologically acceptable carriers are well known in the art. Exemplary liquid carriers for use in accordance with the present invention are sterile aqueous solutions which contain no materials other than the active ingredient and water, or may contain a buffer such as sodium phosphate at physiological pH value, physiological saline or both (i.e., phosphate-buffered saline). Suitable aqueous carriers may further comprise more than one buffer salt, as well as other salts (such as sodium and potassium chlorides) and/or other solutes.

The active ingredient may further be mixed in amounts suitable for use in the therapeutic methods described herein with one or more excipients which are pharmaceutically acceptable and compatible with the active ingredient. Suitable excipients include dextrose, glycerol, ethanol and the like, and combinations of one or more thereof with vegetable oils, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, benzyl

alcohol and the like to provide a suitable injectable composition. In addition, if desired, the composition can contain wetting or emulsifying agents, isotonic agents, pH buffering agents, dissolution promoting agents, stabilizers, antiseptic agents and other typical auxiliary additives employed in the formulation of pharmaceutical preparations. In another variation, the active agents of the present invention may be incorporated into liposomal vesicles [see, e.g., U.S. Patent 5,104,661; U.S. Patent 5,013,556; and published PCT application WO 92/06192, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference]. Other suitable formulations for delivery of an active agent of general formula I would be immediately apparent to those working in the field. Typically, the compositions comprise at least about 0.1 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of therapeutic agent per weight of total therapeutic composition.

Determination of the appropriate amount of a compound of general formula I to administer to any given patient may routinely be determined empirically for the combination of patient and active agent. In general, an amount effective to achieve the desired effect is in the range of about 1 μ g/kg to about 100 mg/kg of patient body weight, preferably about 1 to about 10 mg/kg.

In the course of developing the present invention, the activity of lidocaine was compared with another sodium channel blocker and with two lidocaine metabolites on tactile allodynia as measured in an experimental model for neuropathy in rats. Intravenous bupivacaine was inactive against allodynia; this substantiates previous similar observations with regard to the lack of effect of bupivacaine on centrally facilitated nociceptive processing [Biella G et al., Brain Res 603:201-206 (1992)]. Spinal sodium channel blockade likewise did not seem to be sufficient to reverse allodynia; when administered IT, lidocaine had no anti-allodynic effect after termination of motor block [Chaplan SR et al., Anesthesiology 79:A910 (1993)]. Together, these observations immediately call into question the assumption that the effects of systemically administered lidocaine are attributable to the most salient pharmacological property of lidocaine, namely sodium channel blockade. 3-OH L did not cause motor block at an effective anti-allodynia dose.

Lidocaine had previously been shown to be effective against allodynia by the intravenous, but not the intrathecal/regional routes [Chaplan et al. (1993), *supra*]. Pursuant to the present invention, it is shown that 3-OH L lidocaine, but not MEGX, is an active metabolite of lidocaine with regard to allodynia suppression. 3-OH L was highly active when administered intravenously; allodynia suppression appeared at a lower total IV infused dose than previous results using the parent compound, arguing that IV 3-OH L is more potent with regard to this effect. Allodynia suppression also had far more rapid onset with 3-OH L, supporting the hypothesis that the metabolite is more specifically active than the parent compound. MEGX, by contrast, although an active antiarrhythmic agent [Narang PK et al., Clin Pharm Ther 24:654-662 (1978)], was completely devoid of anti-allodynia activity by the intravenous route at an exogenously administered dose designed to vastly exceed its appearance through biotransformation of an effective dose of systemically administered lidocaine.

3-OH L, and not MEGX, suppressed allodynia after IT administration. MEGX was administered in excess, at a dose sufficient to cause ample drug effect as witnessed by motor blockade. 3-OH L was administered at 10x lower concentration and yet effectively suppressed allodynia, with no evidence of motor effects.

Systemic lidocaine has been reported to have a long lasting effect by the IV route [Abram SE et al., Anesthesiology 80:383-391 (1994); Bach et al. (1990), *supra*; Chaplan et al. (1993), *supra*]. In the present observations, 3-OH L had a long lasting effect by the IT route, but not by the IV route. These observations are consistent with the hypotheses that 3-OH L or a closely related hepatic biotransformation product is the active agent in allodynia suppression, and the active site for this metabolite is in fact the spinal cord. This provides an explanation for the protracted activity of IT 3-OH L and not lidocaine after application to the cord, although the mechanism of effect remains unknown.

The efficacy of 3-OH L, but not MEGX, may explain the sporadic nature of long-lasting effects in humans. Predominance of one or the other metabolite is the result of the relative activity of differing hepatic enzymes in the P-450 system:

3-OH L is produced by the P450 PA(P450IA2) enzyme, whereas MEGX is produced by the P450NF(human) (P-450 PB-1(rat)(IIIA4) enzyme [Imaoka S et al., J Pharmacol Exp Ther 255:1385-1391 (1990)]. Pharmacogenetic or environmental, enzyme-inducing/suppressing factors may determine which patients
5 produce meaningful levels of active metabolites vs. the predominant metabolite, MEGX.

Some species of rats predominantly produce 3-OH L. Thus, patients who inherently produce some 3-OH L, or who are subject to factors (such as illness, other medications) predisposing them to this hepatic P40 pathway, may exhibit
10 long-lasting effects. Additionally, since humans do produce some 3-OH L, exposure to high doses of parent compound may force the production of pharmacologically active amounts of 3-OH L yielding the desired result (hence, the clinical popularity of subconvulsant doses of lidocaine given as isolated repeated infusions).

15 Systemic lidocaine had a sustained effect on tactile allodynia in SD rats but was not effective in this regard in DA rats. The reason for the lack of prolonged effect of lidocaine in DA rats is consistent with the documented lack of 3-hydroxylation in this strain, since a lower dose of the metabolite 3-OHL persistently reduced allodynia in both strains. Obvious reasons for the absence of
20 this effect in human clinical use of lidocaine are that this unique property is not a property of the parent compound per se, and that humans are known to produce only very small quantities of 3-OHL.

The invention may be better understood with reference to the accompanying examples, which are intended for purposes of illustration only and should not be
25 construed as in any sense limiting the scope of the invention as defined in the claims appended hereto.

Examples

Example 1

Male Harlan Sprague-Dawley rats were used (100-200g). Rats were housed
30 2-3 to a cage with corn cob bedding and Purina rat chow and water ad libitum, in a standard facility with a 12 h/ 12 h day/night cycle. After surgical procedures

involving chronic indwelling catheter insertion, animals were housed singly to prevent catheter damage.

To induce neuropathy, rats were anesthetized with halothane/oxygen, and the left L5/L6 spinal nerves were exposed via a dorsal midline incision and ligated tightly with 6-0 silk suture according to the reported method [Kim SH et al., Pain 50:355-363 (1992)]. Rats were allowed to recover 5-7 days before further testing or surgeries.

Intrathecal PE-10 catheters were implanted under halothane/oxygen anesthesia [Yaksh TL et al., Physiol Behav 17:1031-1036 (1976)]. The catheters were 9 cm in intrathecal length and terminated near the lumbar enlargement. The rostral 3 cm of catheter was tunneled under the skin to externalize between the ears. Rats with neurologic deficits were discarded.

For intravascular access, external jugular catheters were fashioned from PE-50 tubing and inserted into an external jugular vein under halothane/oxygen anesthesia. Arterial catheters were also fashioned from PE-50 with a small bouton 1 cm from the intravascular end for suture securing; they were inserted into a carotid artery, taking care to spare the surrounding nerves. All catheters were flushed with heparinized saline (10 U/ml) and tunneled subcutaneously to emerge at the posterior base of the neck, and capped when not in use.

Monoethylglycinexylidide (MEGX) was dissolved in physiologic saline; 3-hydroxylidocaine (3-OH L) was dissolved in DMSO for intravenous administration. For intrathecal administration, 3-OH L was dissolved in a vehicle consisting of 10% DMSO, 25% propylene glycol, 25% ethanol, and 40% physiologic saline, which was found to be less irritating than DMSO.

Intravenous drugs were delivered to awake, unrestrained rats by slow infusion using a syringe pump (Harvard apparatus 22). Intrathecal drugs were delivered to awake, briefly restrained rats in a volume of 10 μ l, followed by 10 μ l of vehicle flush, using a calibrated tubing extension with a 30-gauge adapter fitting the implanted intrathecal catheter, attached to a geared Hamilton 100 μ l glass syringe. IT drug delivery was monitored by observing the advancement of a small air bubble down the tubing.

For bupivacaine assays, samples were obtained by withdrawing and discarding approximately 0.3 cc of blood from arterial cannulae, and then withdrawing samples of approximately 0.5 cc volume. These samples were centrifuged and the plasma supernatant was frozen at -20°C until analysis.

5 Bupivacaine was extracted from the thawed samples by solid-phase extraction chromatography [Chen Y et al., Therapeut Drug Monitor 14:317-321 (1992)]. Sep-Pak C-18 (300 mg) cartridges were pre-conditioned with 4 ml of methanol and then 4 ml water. Internal standard (50 µl aqueous lidocaine HCl, equivalent to 2 ng/µl serum) was added to 200 µl serum and the mixture was
10 vortexed for 30 seconds. The sample was applied to the cartridge and sequentially rinsed with 2 ml water, then 2 ml 25% methanol in water. Methanol (2 X 200 µl) was used to elute bupivacaine from the cartridges, and was removed by atmospheric evaporation at 45°C. Dried extracts were reconstituted in 100 µl anhydrous ethanol immediately prior to gas chromatographic (GC) analysis.

15 Bupivacaine was quantitated by capillary GC with nitrogen-phosphorus detection [Bjork M et al., Journal of Chromatography 533:229-234 (1990)]. A Hewlett-Packard 5890 II GC was equipped with a methyl-silicone gum (HP-1) capillary column (25 M X 0.2 mm X 0.33 µM), programmed with injector and detector temperatures of 265°C. Split injections (1.5:1) were performed with a
20 Hewlett Packard 7673A automatic sampler, and the chromatograms were recorded and analyzed with H-P Chemstation (MSDOS) software. The helium carrier gas flow rate was 0.9 ml/min (32 psi). Hydrogen and air flow-rates in the detector were 3 and 120 ml/min, respectively. The oven temperature was programmed at 240°C for 1 minute, raised over 1 minute to a final temperature of 270°C, and
25 held at 270°C for 4 minutes. Total run time was 5 minutes; lidocaine and bupivacaine eluted at 2.4 and 4.0 minutes, respectively.

Rats were placed in a plastic cage with an open wire mesh bottom and allowed to accommodate for approximately fifteen minutes. A series of 8 von Frey filaments with logarithmically incremental stiffness (0.41, 0.70, 1.20, 2.00, 3.63,
30 5.50, 8.50, and 15.10 g) (Stoelting, Wood Dale, IL) was used to determine the 50% threshold for paw withdrawal to light mechanical stimuli (PWT). In brief,

von Frey hairs were sequentially applied using an up-and-down paradigm to the left mid-plantar hindpaw with sufficient force to cause slight filament buckling. Positive responses were noted if the paw was sharply withdrawn. Previous observations had determined that normal or sham operated rats have PWT of \geq 15 g. In cases where thresholds fell outside the range of detection, i.e., continuous positive or negative responses were observed to the limit of the range of stimuli, values of 15.00 g (normal) or 0.25 g (maximally neuropathic) were assigned respectively. Otherwise, PWT were calculated by noting the stimulus level at which the first change in behavior occurred, collecting four additional responses to the continued up-and-down oscillation of stimulus presentation around the response threshold, and interpolating the 50% response threshold. For some comparisons, raw thresholds were converted to percent of maximum possible effect (%MPE), designating pre-treatment PWT (baselines) as 0% effect, and assigning a cutoff value of 100% effect to thresholds \geq 15 g; therefore, %MPE values near 100 indicate normal mechanical thresholds (i.e., at or near 15 g), whereas values near 0 indicate allodynia. The following equation was used to compute %MPE:

$$\%MPE = \frac{\text{new threshold (g)} - \text{baseline threshold (g)}}{15 \text{ grams} - \text{baseline threshold}} \times 100$$

Plasma drug levels and PWT were correlated using linear regression. Serially measured PWT and %MPE were compared using repeated measures ANOVA.

Intravenous infusion of bupivacaine had no effect on allodynia (15 samples from 4 rats, $P = 0.11$, linear regression), up to plasma concentrations which caused evident toxicity as manifested by ataxia and lethargy. Higher doses resulted in seizure (mean plasma level, 7.4 ± 0.7), $N = 4$). Fig. 1 displays the lack of correlation between plasma bupivacaine levels and % MPE on PWT.

By IV delivery 3-OH L (in DMSO) was both potent and effective at suppressing allodynia ($N = 4$). Maximum effect on PWT was complete normalization (15 ± 0 g after infusion, compared to 1.57 ± 0.5 g at baseline, $P = < 0.0001$, repeated measures ANOVA). MEGX had no effect whatsoever at a dose of 20 mg/kg, infused over 60 minutes (baseline, 1.7 ± 0.6 g; post infusion

1.96 \pm 0.4 g). Fig. 2 shows the effect on PWT at time points after infusion of the respective metabolites/vehicles. For the purpose of comparison with lidocaine, Fig. 3 shows the data from Fig. 2 with the additional superimposition of a data set for the intravenous infusion of a nearly comparable dose of lidocaine, 15 mg/kg.

5 The IT delivery of lidocaine, 500 μ g, resulted in the acute onset of hindquarter flaccidity of approximately 10 minutes duration, during which time it was not possible to measure PWT. After recovery of motor function, allodynia thresholds remained indistinguishable from pre-drug baseline (i.e., no effect on allodynia was seen). The IT administration of 500 μ g MEGX resulted in transient
10 motor dysfunction (5-10 minutes), manifested as hindquarter weakness; after this weakness resolved, rat behavior appeared normal. MEGX showed no effect on PWT at this limiting dose, similar to observations made with lidocaine. In contrast, no motor dysfunction was seen after 3-OH L injection at the highest dose soluble in the vehicle, 58 μ g. 3-OH L lidocaine was significantly effective at
15 suppressing allodynia: baseline thresholds were 2.3 \pm 0.39 g, compared to 10.66 \pm 2.3 g at 60 minutes after treatment ($P < 0.0001$). Fig. 4 shows the effect on PWT of IT administration of MEGX, 3-OH L, and the combination vehicle for 3-OH L, at time points after acute treatment.

Long term effects of IT 3-OH L were determined. The allodynia
20 suppression by 3-OH L, 58 μ g single dose (administered in the combination vehicle described above) persisted for the 5 day follow-up period, without signs of motor or behavioral toxicity. Thresholds at 5 days post treatment ($N = 6$) were 9.3 \pm 2.5, significantly greater than baseline (2.7 \pm .2) and concurrent vehicle controls ($N = 6$) (2.2 \pm .5) ($P = 0.0008$, repeated measures ANOVA). Fig. 5 shows the
25 PWT during the 5 day follow-up period for 3-OH L versus vehicle.

Example 2

12 SD rats (140-170 g) and 12 DA rats (120-145 g) underwent tight ligation of the left L5 and L6 spinal nerves as described above under general anesthesia consisting of barbiturate/benzodiazepine i.p. Rats were allowed 7 days recovery.
30 Postoperatively, all displayed mechanical allodynia, defined as left hindpaw withdrawal thresholds of < 4 g as quantified with Von Frey hairs. 2% Lidocaine

HCl (Astra) was commercially obtained and diluted in physiologic saline; 3-OHL was diluted in DMSO.

Six rats of each strain received a single dose of lidocaine 60 mg/kg i.p., and the other 6 an equivalent volume of saline. Mechanical thresholds were tested
5 repeatedly and compared for 20 days following drug dosing.

Six weeks after lidocaine administration, all thresholds had returned to baseline. We studied 10 DA rats and 12 SD rats: half of each group received 3-OHL 15 mg/kg i.p., and the remainder received an equivalent volume of DMSO alone. Thresholds were followed for 7 days.

10 Lidocaine alleviated tactile allodynia for more than 16 days in SD rats. There was a transient effect at 30 minutes, but no sustained effect whatsoever, in DA rats. The difference for strain was significant ($P < 0.002$). After surgical neuropathy creation and baseline allodynia measurements, SD rats ($N=12$) and DA rats ($N=12$) were given either a single dose of lidocaine 60 mg/kg, i.p. ($N=6$,
15 each strain) or saline ($N=6$, each strain). Paw withdrawal thresholds (g) were measured at the timepoints depicted until 20 days after drug administration. There was a significant inter-strain difference with SD rats showing persistent effects of lidocaine against allodynia ($P < 0.002$, ANOVA) (Fig 6).

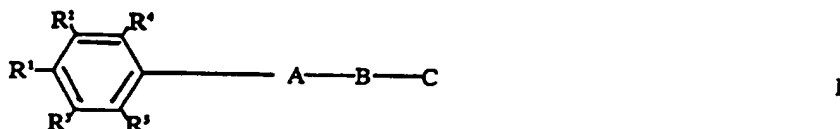
Whereas there was no sustained effect of lidocaine in DA rats, 3-OHL had
20 a significant effect on allodynia for up to 7 days in both SD and DA rats. SD rats ($N=6$) and DA rats ($N=5$) were given i.p. 3-OHL 15 mg/kg; equal numbers of each strain were given DMSO vehicle alone. Paw withdrawal thresholds (g) were followed for 7 days. Both strains showed significant ($P < 0.05$ SD's; $P < 0.002$ DA's) persistent suppression of allodynia (ANOVA, repeated measures). The
25 magnitude of the effect of 15 mg/kg of 3-OHL was similar to the effect in SD rats of 60 mg/kg lidocaine (Fig. 7) with an apparently shorter duration. No motor or other evident toxic effects were seen from either drug.

From the foregoing description, one skilled in the art can readily ascertain the essential characteristics of the invention and, without departing from the spirit
30 and scope thereof, can adapt the invention to various usages and conditions. Changes in form and substitution of equivalents are contemplated as circumstances

may suggest or render expedient, and any specific terms employed herein are intended in a descriptive sense and not for purposes of limitation.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for alleviating pain in a mammalian patient, comprising administering to the patient an amount effective to alleviate pain of a physiologically acceptable salt of at least one compound of general formula I



- 10 wherein each of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, acyl, alkoxyl, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl and NR^8R^9 , in which each of R^8 and R^9 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, with the proviso that at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is hydroxyl;
- 15 each of R^4 and R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen and lower alkyl;
- A is $-C(=O)O-$ or $NR^{10}C(=O)-$, in which R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl;
- 20 B is $-(CR^{11}R^{12})_n-$, in which each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, and n is an integer from 1 to 5; and
- 25 C is NR^6R^7 , in which each of R^6 and R^7 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, or R^6 and R^7 together form a heterocycle or substituted heterocycle selected from the group consisting of piperidyl, N-alkylpiperidyl, piperazinyl, N'-alkylpiperazinyl, morpholinyl and N-alkylmorpholinyl, in a suitable carrier or excipient.
- 30

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is H, R^2 is OH, R^3 is H, R^4 is CH_3 , R^5 is CH_3 , A is $-NHC(=O)-$, B is $-CH_2-$ and C is $N(CH_2CH_3)_2$.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one compound
5 of general formula I is administered at a rate of about $1\text{ }\mu\text{g/kg}$ to about 100 mg/kg of patient body weight.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the at least one compound
10 of general formula I is administered at a rate of about 1 to about 10 mg/kg of patient body weight.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one compound
of general formula I is solubilized by conjugation.

15 6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the at least one compound
of general formula I is glucuronidated.

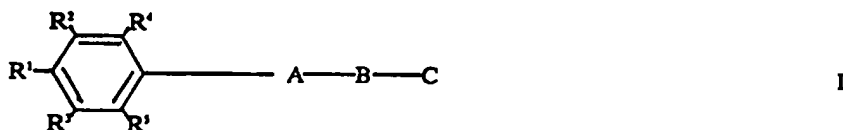
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one compound
20 of general formula I is administered orally.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one compound
of general formula I is administered intravenously.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one compound
25 of general formula I is administered intrathecally.

10. A method according to claim 1, for treatment of allodynia.

11. A composition for alleviating pain in a mammalian patient, comprising a suitable carrier or excipient and an amount effective to alleviate pain
5 of a physiologically-acceptable salt of at least one compound of general formula I



10

wherein each of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, acyl, alkoxyl, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl and NR^8R^9 , in which each of
15 R^8 and R^9 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, with the proviso that at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is hydroxyl;

each of R^4 and R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen and lower alkyl;

20 A is $-C(=O)O-$ or $NR^{10}C(=O)-$, in which R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl;

B is $-(CR^{11}R^{12})_n-$, in which each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl,
25 and n is an integer from 1 to 5; and

C is NR^6R^7 , in which each of R^6 and R^7 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxyaryl, or R^6 and R^7 together form a heterocycle

30

or substituted heterocycle selected from the group consisting of piperidyl, N-alkylpiperidyl, piperazinyl, N'-alkylpiperazinyl, morpholinyl and N-alkylmorpholinyl.

5 12. A composition according to claim 11, wherein R¹ is H, R² is OH, R³ is H, R⁴ is CH₃, R⁵ is CH₃, A is -NHC(=O)-, B is -CH₂- and C is N(CH₂CH₃)₂.
-CH₂-.

10 13. A composition according to claim 11, comprising a unit dosage form wherein the at least one compound of general formula I is provided at a rate of about 1 µg/kg to about 100 mg/kg of patient body weight.

15 14. A composition according to claim 13, wherein the at least one compound of general formula I is provided at a rate of about 1 to about 10 mg/kg of patient body weight.

20 15. A composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one compound of general formula I is solubilized by conjugation.

16. A composition according to claim 15, wherein the at least one compound of general formula I is glucuronidated.

25 17. A composition according to claim 11, formulated for administration orally.

18. A composition according to claim 11, formulated for administration intravenously.

19. A composition according to claim 11, formulated for administration intrathecally.

20. A composition according to claim 11, for treatment of allodynia.

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FIG. 1

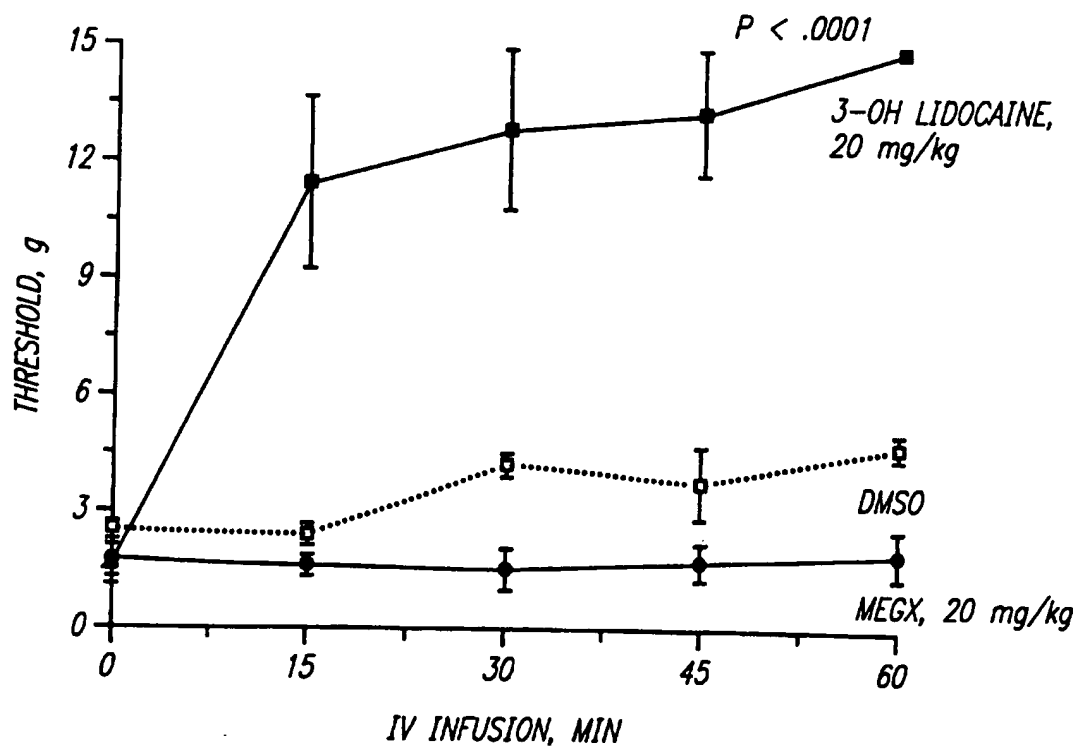
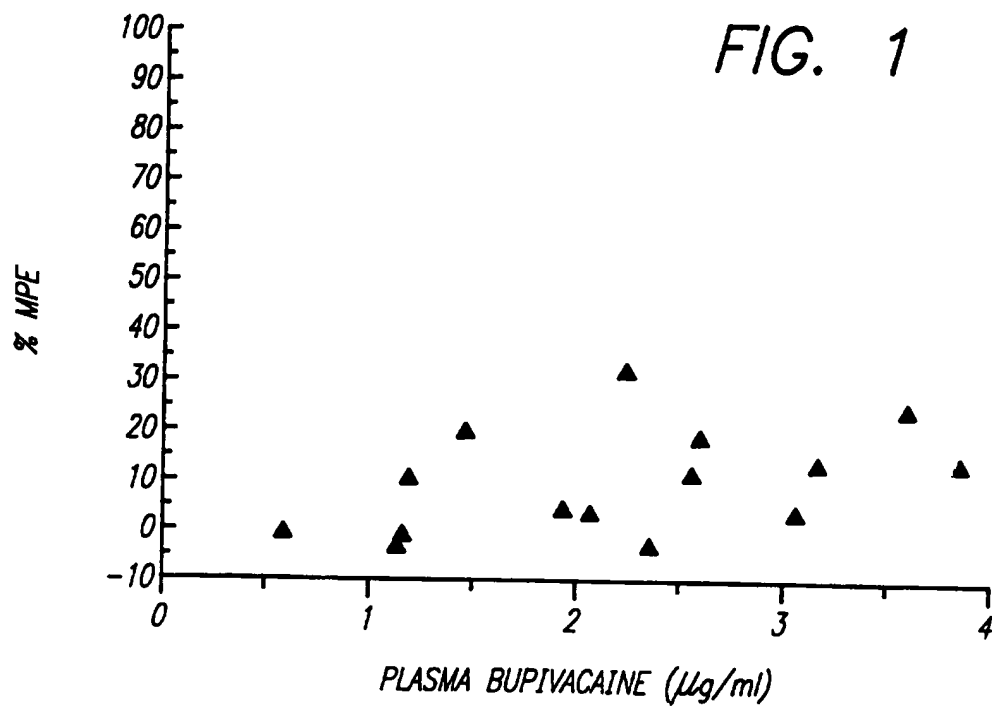


FIG. 2

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FIG. 3

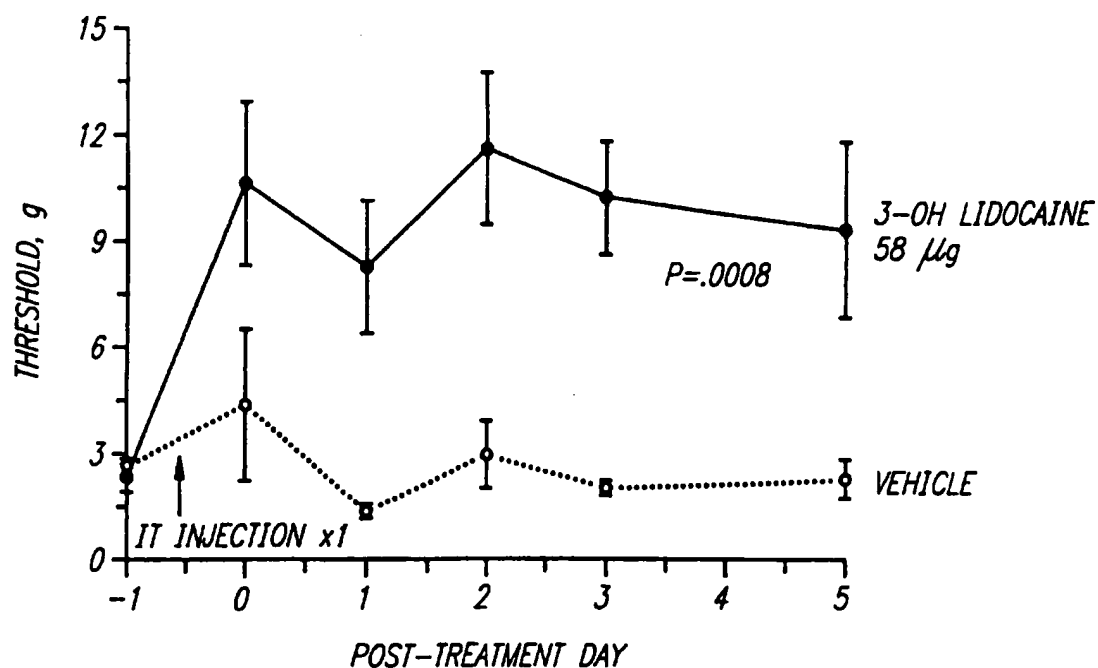
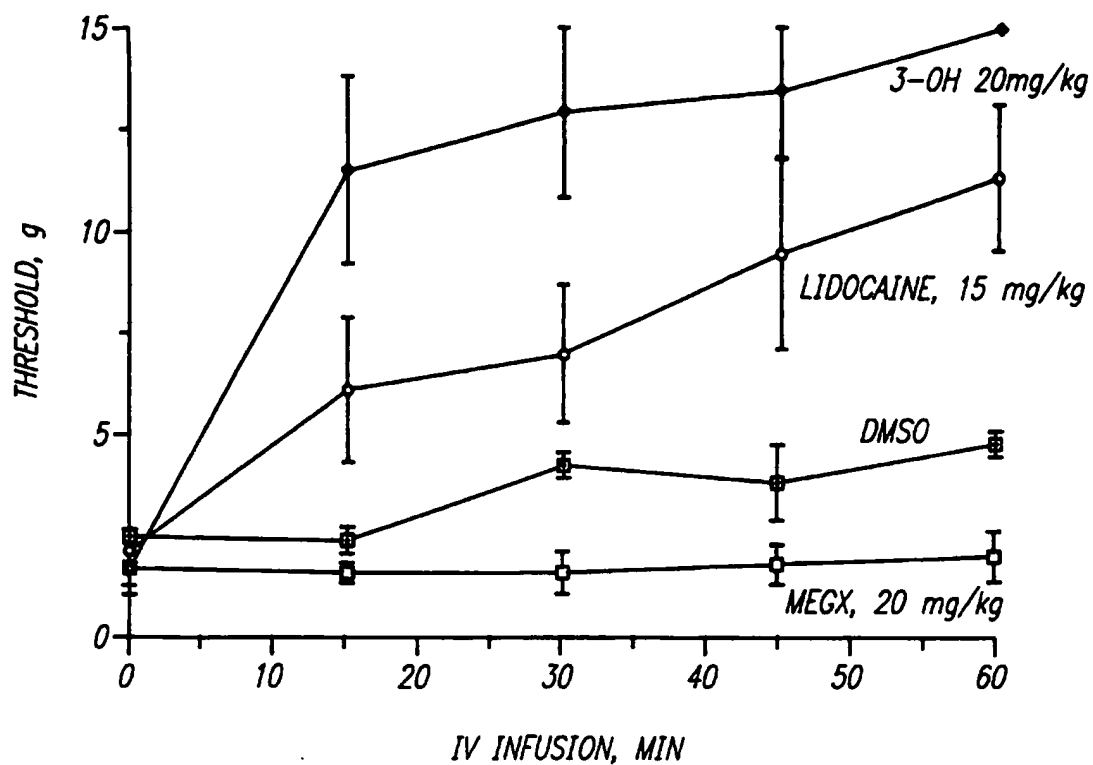
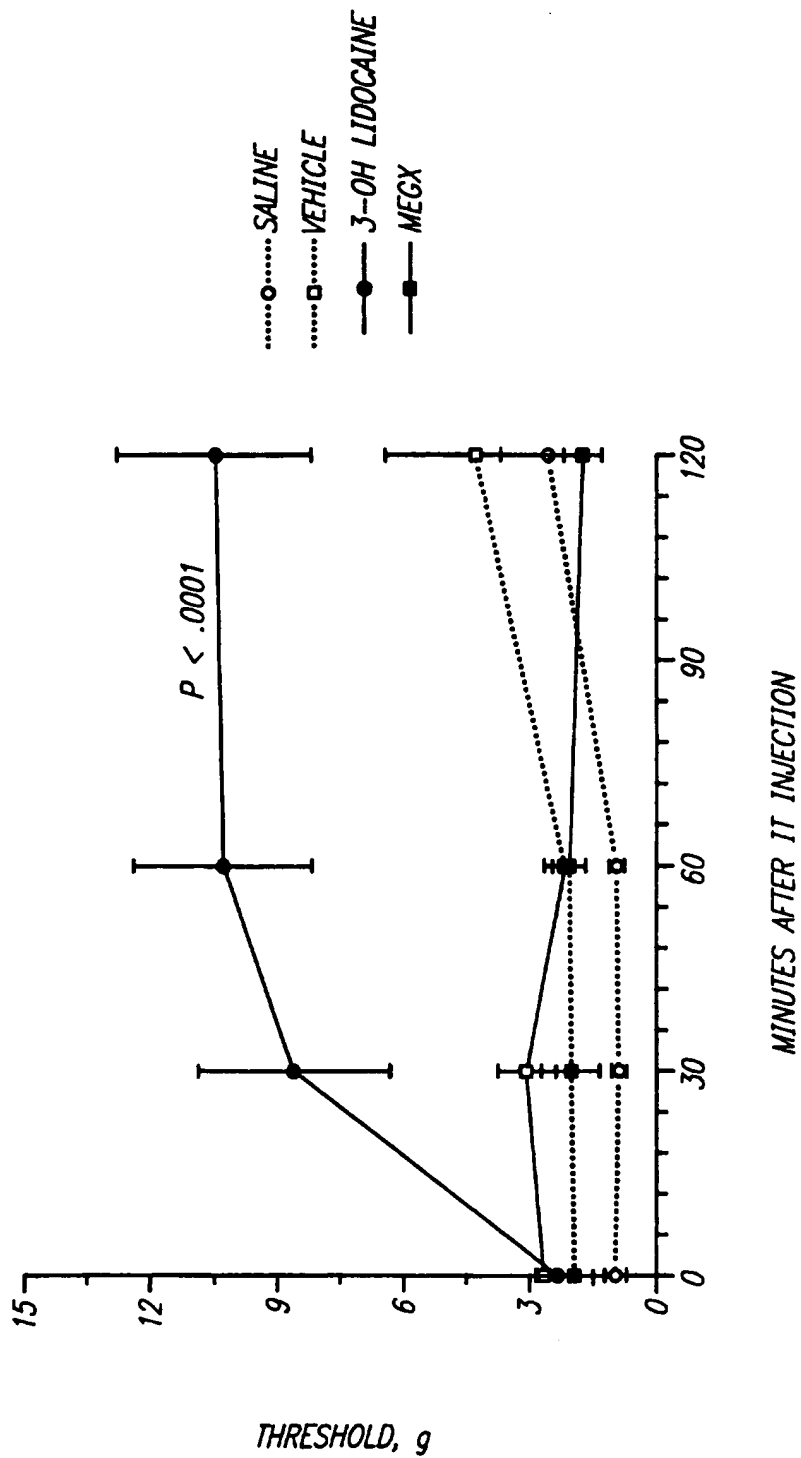


FIG. 5

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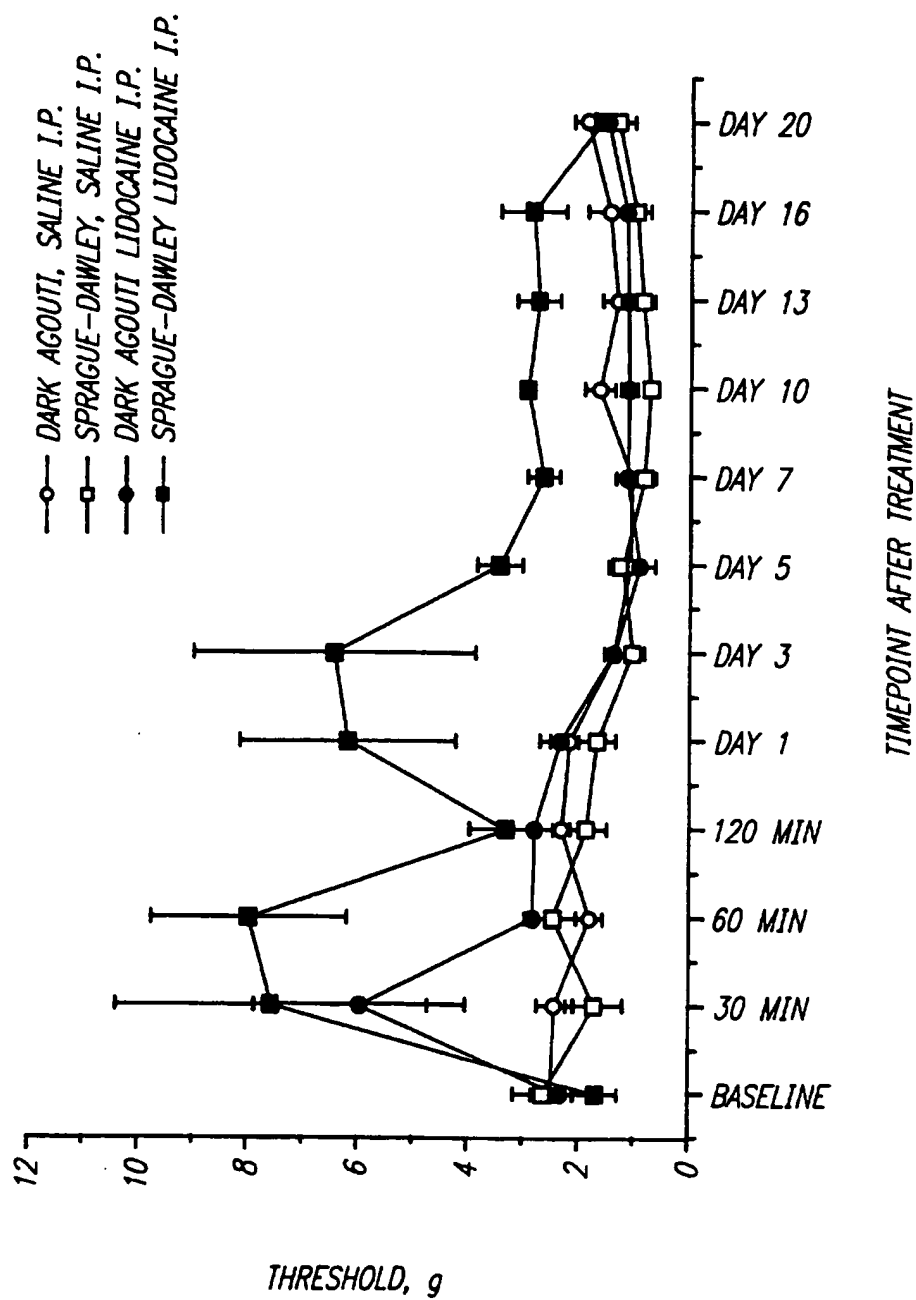
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FIG. 4



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FIG. 6



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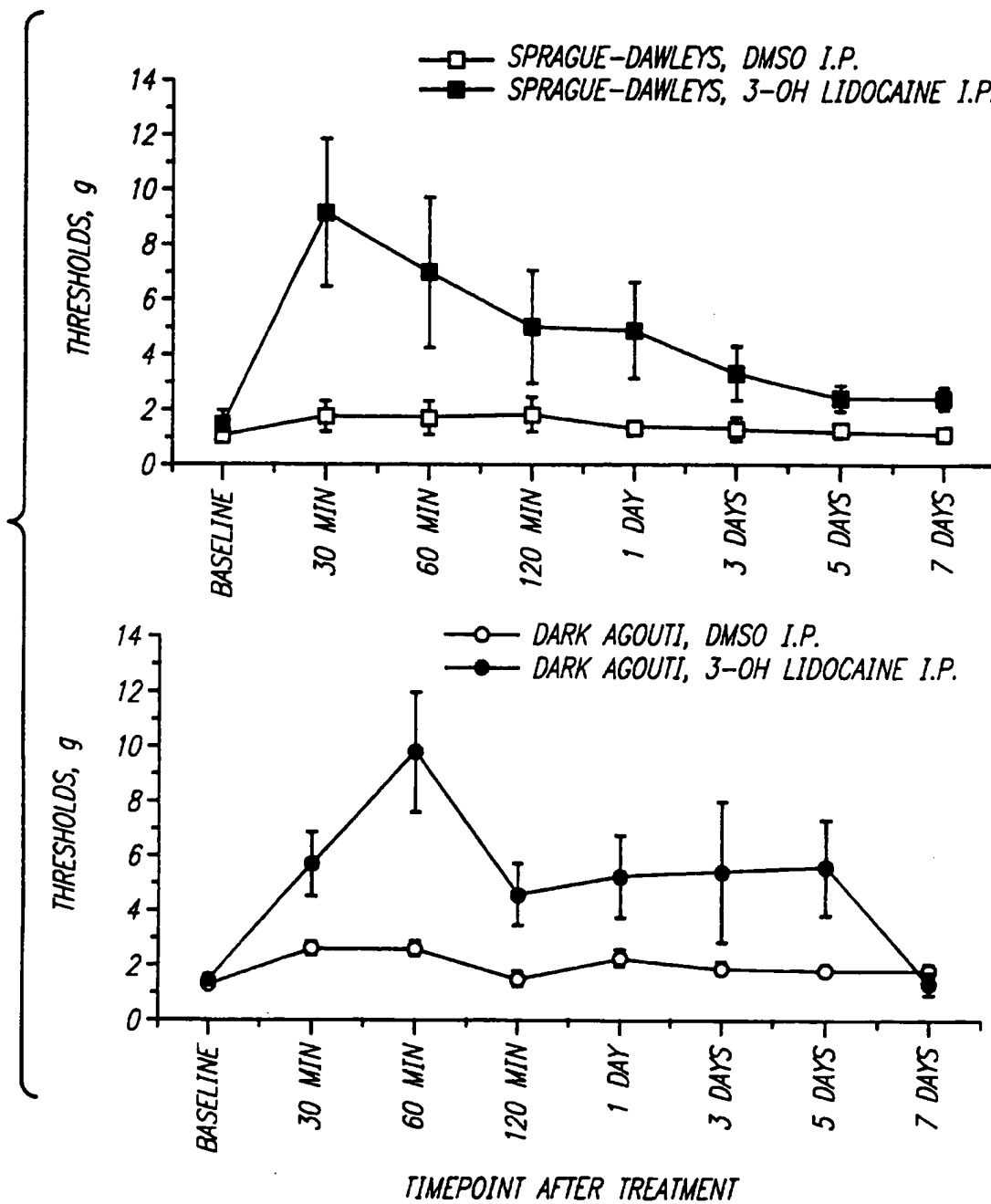


FIG. 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US96/04499

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :A61K 31/165, 31/24

US CL :514/617, 534

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 514/617, 534

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

STN CAS ONLINE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, A, 4,532,249 (MOLNAR ET AL) 30 July 1985, column 1, line 15, and claim 2.	1-20
X, P	US, A, 5,496,854 (KEINAN) 05 March 1996, column 2, lines 50-65.	11-20
X	Chemical Abstracts, issued 1976, Abu-Shady et al, "Synthesis of some 4-aminophenol derivatives of expected pharmacodynamic activity", abstract no. 1976:477795, Egypt. J. Pharm. Sci. (1976), 16(3), pages 289-96, see entire abstract.	1-20
X	US, A, 3,689,555 (SCHUT ET AL) 05 September 1972, column 1, lines 5-10, and claims 1-6.	1-20



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 JULY 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

16.08.96

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